MAY-JUNE 1967

WRL NEWS

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WRL CONFERENCE

The WRL Annual Conference is slated for the weekend of June 2-4, at Hudson Guild Farm, Andover, New Jersey. In a total departure from past years the executive committee has decided to have *no* resource people. You must rely on your own resources as we enter this weekend of discussion and recreation. Whether June 2-4 will be a Happening, a Be-In, or a Disaster is up to those who come.

As in past years there will be swimming, hiking, folk dancing for those who stay up late, and bird watching for those who arise early. For the past several years the Conference has had a capacity attendance—if you are new to the WRL and want to attend, please get in your reservation immediately. Write out a check, and mail it in now—$20 for adults, $16 for students — including food and lodging. A $5 deposit will hold your place—you can pay the balance later. The Conference starts Friday evening and runs through Sunday afternoon.

FIRST REPORT FROM SAN DIEGO

by Marlin Ayotte

(WRL's San Diego address is c/o Marlin Ayotte, 4524 40 Street)

American Union for Action, recently formed to coordinate the work of peace groups in this area, plans at the U.S. Naval Training Center on Memorial Day an Assembly of Citizens concerned with the Vietnam war. We expect 3000 to 4000 people will attend.

Formation of AUA was prompted by the need of the various peace groups in the area, including WRL, to coordinate their efforts. WRL has been concerned primarily with conscientious objection, tax refusal (both income and telephone) and bringing the peace voice to the local news media.

I have been counseling both high school and college students on alternatives to conscription. We have presented the peace viewpoint in one big circulation daily and in most college newspapers. I enclose a WRL ad which appeared in the San Diego State *Daily Aztec*. Though our finances are very limited, we have been quite active with mass leafleting and weekly Wednesday afternoon vigils at both the East San Diego and La Jolla post offices.

PRASAD JOINS VIGIL

Photo by David McReynolds

On April 29, the final Saturday of his 2-month U.S. tour, WRI Secretary Devi Prasad joins the Times Square weekly vigil to end the war in Vietnam. To his left is Otto Nathan, WRL executive committee member and a participant who rarely misses a Saturday. The vigil, co-sponsored by most New York peace organizations, is the oldest of the 150 now being conducted across the country. It has been going since October 1964.

BIGGEST PEACE PICKET LINE "GREETS" HUMPHREY

"Vice President Hubert Humphrey came to Atlanta on April 13 to address the convention of the National Council of Jewish Women," reports the initial issue of the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence Newsletter. "This seemed like an ideal occasion for the Atlanta Workshop to organize its first major demonstration."

It turned out to be Atlanta's biggest peace picket line to date, with about a hundred participants, though it was less publicized than the photo of Humphrey embracing Georgia's Governor Lester Maddox.

"We had been walking for three hours as Humphrey kept changing his arrival time," the Newsletter says. "For those three hours we had maintained a moving picket line which encircled the entire block occupied by the Marriott Motor Hotel. Our picket line not only had people from many organizations (we got a lot of help from the Southern Students Organizing Committee and the Atlanta Committee to End The War in Vietnam) but from all segments of society from beatniks to prominent Atlantans and from grade school children to James Moody, the 88-year-old patriarch of the Atlanta peace movement."

In a letter to WRL, Henry and Sue Bass, directors of the Workshop, point out: "Most of our projects—our Wednesday, Friday and Saturday vigils, our Dow boycott, our anti-draft caravans—involve a relatively small number of persons. The Humphrey demonstration brought these activists together for the first time thus building enthusiasm for direct action projects.

"Here in the south peace activists feel a sense of isolation and loneliness. So bringing them together and making them feel part of a larger movement is more difficult but more important than in New York or San Francisco."

Supported financially by both WRL and CNVA, the Atlanta Workshop is the first workshop in nonviolence to be established by peace groups in the south.

* * *

On Armed Forces Day, May 20, the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence picketed the Lockheed Aircraft plant, scene of an "open house" with guided tours of tanks and bombers brought from Dobbin and Fort MacPherson and a military display.

The Montreal Council to Aid War Resisters has issued a list of eight groups across Canada (in addition to itself) offering aid to American COs. The list is available from WRL.

PENTAGON SIT-INNERS ARRESTED

CNVA's Boston to Washington walk ended with a sit-in at the Pentagon just outside the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. On May 10, after 29 hours, the sit-inners were carried out by police. They returned the following day and were again ejected.

As they attempted to enter the building on May 12, they were arrested along with Bradford Lyttle, who was coordinating the action. The total number arrested was 20.

After a week in jail, they were tried on trespassing charges. As of press time, 14 received suspended sentences, 2 were acquitted and 4 were still to be tried.

BARBARA DEMING . . .

Photo by David McReynolds

. . . receives WRL's ninth annual peace award at annual dinner. The scroll, lettered by Janet Toy (at her right) recalls that "In Albany, Georgia, in Saigon, In Hanoi, she has quietly risked a compassion that reached across the lines on violence."

FILM FESTIVAL

If you plan to see Expo 67 in August or to be in Canada that month, take-in the Experimental Film Festival August 11-13 at the farm of Lowell and Virginia Naeve in North Hatley (only 2 hours from Montreal). "From international sources, private and otherwise, 8 mm and 16 mm films, amateur, professional, well-heeled and shoestring," says the announcement. Naeve, a world war 2 CO, recently emigrated to Canada with his family (WRL News January-February: Why They Chose Canada).

PHOENIX DELIVERS MEDICINES TO HAIPHONG

The 50-foot ketch Phoenix, which sailed from Hiroshima on March 1, arrived in Haiphong 28 days later—during a U.S. air raid—and safely delivered its $10,000 cargo of medical supplies.

"It was only on the third day out of Hong Kong that the U.S. government came to look at us," wrote Richard Faun of the Toronto Star, who with Bill Hieck, a Canadian movie photographer, joined the crew in Hong Kong. "First it was a jet fighter that flew so low, we felt as if the pilot was trying to shear off the mast top. A few minutes later came a 4-engine reconnaisance plane. Still later, a helicopter approached. We spent the next few days waiting for a U.S. ship to intercept us. But apparently the Seventh Fleet had orders to let us alone, and we saw no warships right up to the moment we anchored at Buoy Zero."

Captained by Earle Reynolds, who in 1958 sailed the Phoenix from Honolulu into the Pacific nuclear test zone and in 1961 sailed the Everyman II from London to Leningrad, the Phoenix had a crew of six including Reynold's wife, Aki, Betty Boardman, Horace Champney, Philip Drath, Robert Eaton and Ivan Massar.

On May 29-30 in Washington, the Quaker Action Group, which sponsored the Phoenix, plans a vigil and wait-in at the State Department urging an end to the U.S. bombing, freedom to send medical supplies and restoration of crew members' passports which were revoked following the voyage.

WRL OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The current officers of the League are: Chairman, Edward Gottlieb; Vice-Chairmen, Charles Bloomstein and Igal Roodekno; Treasurer, Michael Wagner. The Executice Committee is composed of the officers and the following members: Bent Andresen, Norma Becker, George Benello, David Berkingoff, Walter Bursten, Maris Cakars, Gordon Christiansen, Sam Coleman, Ross Flanagan, Robert Gilmore, Joseph Kearns, Robert Larsen, Roget Lockard, Thelma Mielke, Prafulla Mukerji, Otto Nathan, Lester Packer, Norman Rush, Irwin Stark and Arlo Tatum.

WRL members are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings which are held the second Tuesday of every month (except July and August) from 6.30 to 9:30 p.m. at the office. Members are also welcome to attend Steering Committee (officers and committee chairmen) meetings which are held on call.

DEMONSTRATE AT EXPO

by Jim Peck

Photo by Marc Firstenberg

Shortly after the start of our 10-hour sit-in at the U.S. pavilion on the opening day of Expo 67 in Montreal, Richard White (second from right) rose to burn his draft card. I am to his right. Left of him are John Dauvergne, a Loyola professor who wore his cap-and-gown together with a "genocide" sign, and C. J. Hinke. The other sit-inners included Leonard Brody, Keith Dobrin, James Russo and Dek Tillett. We had painted anti-war slogans on our shirts, since we realized we could not have gained admission with regular placards.

We were prepared for arrest under a newly-adopted city bylaw providing up to 60-day jail sentences and $100 fines for demonstrating at Expo. But a USIA representative informed us later in the day that the police would not be summoned because arrests would create ill-will.

Prior to the sit-in, a group of some 80 persons—the first of them carrying a miniature Vietnam pavilion (Vietnam is unrepresented at Expo)—marched from Dominion Square to within 500 feet from the fairgrounds entrance, beyond which demonstrations are prohibited under the new law.

The sit-in and march were organized by the Student Peace Union with its secretary Joe Kearns and Rob Kelder coordinating. They did an effective job with a minimum of resources and no support from any other peace organization. The demonstration got publicity not only in Canada but in the U.S. and other countries.

Having participated in the civil rights demonstration which marked the opening day of New York's World's Fair, I am aware that an effective protest action on such an occasion is a "natural" as far as publicity is concerned. Our Expo demonstration was no exception. It has received widespread newspaper, radio and TV publicity the world over. However, the demonstration could have been much bigger and hence more effective had it had the support and co-sponsorship of other peace organizations. Yet even a small demonstration was preferable to the opening of Expo 67 without a single voice of protest over Vietnam.

VIGIL AT HOLLYWOOD BOWL

by Paul Encimer

WRL of Los Angeles held its second Easter Vigil at the Hollywood Bowl. Thousands traditionally come from all over Southern California to attend the sunrise services at the Bowl. They were met once more by a line of peace vigilers holding pictures of napalmed children and signs which read "Would HE drop Napalm?" "Vietnam, America's Hungary."

Over 4000 leaflets proclaiming "These are our Brothers whom we kill" were handed out as worshippers passed to and from the bowl. The Vigil ended after seven hours, when the Bowl was finally emptied.

Several weeks later, WRL passed out another thousand leaflets at an event with a slightly different style, a FUGs-Ginsberg concert in Santa Monica. The leaflet took its theme from Ginsberg's poem "Ending the Heat."

The tax refusal meeting which WRL called in April resulted in formation of Southern California Taxpayers Against the War. Officers of the organization are Dr. Donald Kalish of UCLA and Don Freed of WRL. A lawyer has been retained to handle a suit to recover Vietnam war taxes from the government.

Draft counseling continues. Almost every evening a young man brings his problem to the office. We have attempted to reach students before they register by taking out ads in the local "underground" high school papers. We are also trying to arrange a liaison with PTAs in order to become part of the official high school draft counseling scene.

URGE PUERTO RICO'S INCLUSION IN DENUCLEARIZED ZONE

A newly organized WRL group in San Juan has conducted a demonstration and is circulating a petition urging that Puerto Rico be included in the denuclearized zone proposed by the UN for Latin America.

The demonstration took place on May 4 in conjunction with a nuclear survival exercise sponsored by the Office of Emergency Planning and attended by Governor Roberto Sanchez Vilella together with U.S. and Commonwealth officials. Wearing torn, red-splattered shrouds and death-white makeup and carrying signs (in Spanish) saying "There Will Be *No* Survivors"—and "Remove The Nuclear Weapons," the demonstrators picketed Civil Defense headquarters.

Father Thomas Dorney, one of the demonstrators, pointed out "If Puerto Rico did not have nuclear bases or weapons, it would not be a target for nuclear attack. Under provisions of the Nuclear Free Zone Treaty projected by the UN for Latin America and the Caribbean, nuclear weapons can be removed from Puerto Rico. This treaty gives us a chance to demilitarize the uses of nuclear energy in one whole sector of the world. A campaign already is in motion here to get 10,000 signatures to petition Puerto Rico's inclusion in it."

On Mothers Day, May 14, Celestina Zalduono, member of the island's highest board of eduction, publicly expressed gratification that her son, Miguel, is refusing to be drafted. Bent Andresen, WRL executive committee member on vacation in Puerto Rico, presented Miguel with a copy of "Peace Agitator," Nat Hentoff's biography of A. J. Muste while Taddy Andresen pinned a corsage on Mrs. Zalduono. This ceremony followed a morning of WRL leafleting at the church opposite the main entrance to the University of Puerto Rico.

The WRL in Puerto Rico now has about 40 members. Al Kuenzli and Dagmar Schultz deserve much credit for getting the group started.

WRL TAX REFUSERS LIST NOW 700

With the 100 names which have come in since April 15, the tax refusers' list of the WRL of Northern California now totals 700. This was reported by Holly Chenery at the deadline date for this issue. WRL's tax refusal campaign was coordinated by the Northern California office in cooperation with the No Tax for War Committee of Cincinnati and CNVA in New York.

TWO MONTHS IN NORTH AMERICA

by Devi Prasad

(Secretary of the War Resisters International
88 Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex, England)

The overall impression of my two-month tour of the United States and Canada is like a montage which includes pictures and scenes of almost everything under the sun and one in which part of one picture is superimposed on another. I spoke at about 120 meetings during this period. These included public and group meetings, talks with organizational peace workers, press, radio and TV interviews and participation in a couple of vigils, a march and a rally. I regret I missed the April 15 Spring Mobilization, I was in Montreal on that date. Nevertheless, I was closely in touch with the campaign. Themes on which I spoke and had discussions included the international peace movement, pacifism, nonviolence and India.

Two months is a long period, especially when one is almost every day in a different place and dealing with altogether new people. There were several occasions when I had five or even six meetings in a day. During that period I could not keep track of the days of the week because I had no Sundays. So I could think in terms of dates only. All the same, it was undoubtedly a tremendous experience and a very happy one.

In Chicago at three meetings we were able to go deep into the question of "nonviolence for getting things accomplished." We actually reached conclusions for a practical program of nonviolent action. It is possible that a small peace brigade may come into being especially to cope with possible anti-Negro violence in localities such as Cicero.

*The Port Chicago Vigil

The vigil at Port Chicago, from where ammunition and other war material is sent to Vietnam, has been going on since last August. I am glad I could take part in it, even though only for a couple of hours. I was greatly moved after hearing that these few brave men and women have been vigiling for such a long time, in spite of the violence committed against them and their families. Often I ask myself why shouldn't such a project become part of a national campaign in which vigilers from different localities come to participate.

The Easter March in Miami was another highlight of my journey. I considered it of some significance as it was probably the first time 25 young people had engaged in a 30-mile march for peace in that southern city. In a three-hour workshop after the public meeting that evening, the marchers discussed theoretical and practical aspects of organizing demonstrations of this kind. It was important because most of these boys and girls had for the first time faced violence—from the pro-war Cuban refugees.

Two sessions at the Institute for the Study of Nonviolence in Carmel, a meeting on education at the Walden School in San Francisco, four continuous classes at Albion College in Albion, Michigan, etc.—I cannot list all such engagements—there were so many. In short, I was lucky to have been able to establish effective dialogue with a number of people.

My first stop was Denver, then Vancouver. I traveled south to San Diego then to Houston. There, I strongly felt that New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles are *not* America. I wished that some of the peace stalwarts on the east and west coasts could at least spend part of their time in cities like Houston, across the country where there are so few peace people and where they feel so isolated. I wished there could be 50 or 100 or even more peace workers at all times touring the country.

"We Have Not Yet Done Enough"

From Houston I went to New Orleans. Everywhere there is a sense of frustration among peace workers. "We have been demonstrating so much but the war in Vietnam has not ended," they say. Although I understand the point and feel that new techniques in our struggle against war must be found, I cannot understand how one can say "we have done too much." If there have been no concrete results, it is because we have not yet done enough. Our struggle is against an evil which has a foundation and a history of at least 50,000 years. we cannot afford to get frustrated after working for three or four years. But at the same time we should be impatient enough to say that the evil of war should end here and now. I thus ask that we develop a sense of patience and of impatience at the same time.

From New Orleans I went to Miami and then to Atlanta where I had very fruitful discussions with leaders of different segments of the civil rights movement. I was much interested in the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence which had just been started with the support of WRL and CNVA. In Atlanta and New Orleans I visited the most depressed ghetto areas. I also saw some fabulously rich houses with acres of beautifully kept lawns. Some of these houses, I was told, were bullet-proof. I was struck by such an extreme contrast in a country of such great affluence. After Atlanta, I journeyed to North Carolina, to Chicago and then to Canada, where two new WRI sections may be formed. Finally, I returned to New York via Boston and Philadelphia and had time off for some too hasty sightseeing before my departure.

In conclusion let me say that I did not try to sell WRI or WRL at my meetings. I felt people should decide later whether they felt they should support the work of such organizations. I hope some will do so. On the whole, I had an enthusiastic response and a warm reception wherever I went.

I wish to convey thanks to WRL for inviting me to the U.S., and to David McReynolds for mapping my tour in a most efficient way, to Ralph DiGia, Jim Peck and the WRL staff for providing me with every assistance. Thanks also to the many friends and organizations which helped me in so many ways, and my gratitude to hundreds of those who in public or private discussions challenged me with questions and also helped in trying to find answers.

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*This paragraph is in italics at the request of Devi Prasad who expressed particular regret that the Port Chicago Vigil has received so little organizational support.

AFTER THE SPRING MOBILIZATION— WHAT

by David McReynolds

Escalation of the war in Vietnam has been so swift that it would be easy to forget, in the tragic rush of events, the mobilization of April 15. Yet, this peace demonstration is so closely linked to the escalation itself, and to the dangerous new mood of the Administration, that we must assess the relationship.

On April 15 from 200,000 to 300,000 Americans demonstrated for peace in New York and about 80,000 in San Francisco. Those demonstrations are without precedent in the history of the nation. They were, first of all, the largest political demonstrations I can recall—surpassing even the 1963 civil rights March on Washington—and they are the only mass demonstrations we have ever had against a war while that war was being waged and American men were dying on foreign soil.

In the major wars in which we have been involved formerly, the nation has either been attacked or has felt deeply the "moral rightness" of its position. Once the war has begun the peace movement has broken up, reducing itself to the "hard core" pacifists. The great peace movement just before World War I and the "Oxford Pledge" movement on the eve of World War II vanished, were swallowed up in hysteria, as peace songs became war chants and the intellectual community became the apologists for war. (In this connection one should read Randolph Bourne's "War And the Intellectuals"). But this time the peace movement continues to grow as the war escalates. The intellectual community is overwhelmingly alienated from the war.

Everyone does not support this war

President Johnson keeps pointing to the polls, saying in effect that "Everyone else supports the war, why don't you." But the fact is that everyone does not support this war, much less support the President. The last opinion polls show that 72% of the public "backs the war"—*but* 51% would favor a "neutralist" settlement in Vietnam and about 65% feel uneasy about Johnson's role as national leader. Clearly the nation is confused and divided. When one looks for "hard core" support for the war it is less visible than "hard core" support for ending the war. Following the April 15 peace demonstrations there was a "Loyalty Parade" in New York on April 29 with less than 10,000 turning out for a parade supported by the Daily News, the VFW, the John Birch Society, and Cardinal Spellman. A better and more shrewdly organized parade on May 13, with even wider backing, drew only 75,000—about a third of the number who protested the war on April 15.

Johnson knew, perhaps better than anyone else, the meaning of April 15. His immediate response was a cold announcement that the F.B.I. was keeping watch on the peace movement. Then Dean Rusk spoke of the role of Communists in organizing these demonstrations. Then Johnson, with the instinct of a coward and a bully, delivered his most forceful reply to the peace movement when, less than a week after the April 15 demonstrations, he ordered the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong. Then, to make his point perfectly clear, he brought General Westmoreland home from battle to address a joint session of Congress. That visit was without precedent—even Senator Morton, a hawkish Republican, protested this open effort to use military prestige to silent dissent. Westmoreland's visit was significant because it was proof that Johnson realized how isolated he was, and how urgent it was to try to silence the dissent. Hubert Humphrey now speaks of the need "for responsible dissent" —with the implication that the government, if necessary, will prevent "irresponsible" dissent which might hurt the war effort.

American democracy is in a profound crisis, caught up in a war the people basically did not want and do not support. James Reston, New York Times columnist, publicly noted that college draft exemptions are going to continue because Selective Service fears that as many as 25% of the students would refuse service if called. Opposition to the war runs a strange gamut, from the world's heavyweight boxing champion now waiting trial for draft refusal, to U Thant, Pope Paul, and a strong cross-section of the best men in the U.S. Senate.

Escalate the Opposition

Our job now is to escalate the opposition, not to be discouraged at this moment of danger. For the danger is coldly visible: Johnson cannot win the war by '68, in time for the election, and therefore he is extremely likely to invade North Vietnam and seek to provoke China into the war in order to campaign as a "war President." The youth of this nation are being expended in Vietnam in a desperate effort to secure the political position of one man—Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Our work will range from actions as quiet and orderly as weekly silent vigils, the dissemination of information on conscientious objection, the organizing of discussion groups on Asian policy, etc., to actions as legally risky and as radical as blocking induction centers, and providing direct support to men who have burned their draft cards or refused induction.

In a political sense we have reason to be discouraged—but it will be helpful to remember that, while we are not a majority of the public, Johnson has fewer active supporters than we do. In the face of the incredible outpouring of Americans of all political opinions on April 15, in a peaceful appeal for a change of policy, we have to remind ourselves that it is a good time to be alive and it is good to be taking part in this struggle. All mankind has reason to be ashamed that human beings can do the kind of things now being done in Vietnam. But we can be grateful that we have the good fortune to be here, in America, where we can take action against man's latest manifestation of his ability to act with cruelty.

We can say with Christopher Fry:

> "Thank God our time is now when wrong
> Comes up to face us everywhere,
> Never to leave us till we take
> The longest stride of soul men ever took.
> Affairs are now soul size."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DURING VIETNAM SUMMER 1967

"It is time now to meet the escalation of the War in Vietnam with an escalation of opposition to that War. I think the time has come for all people of good will to engage in a massive program of organization, of mobilization. This is the purpose of Vietnam Summer. And I'm happy to join as one of the sponsors of what I consider a most necessary program, a program that may determine the destiny of our nation."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
at press conference announcing
VIETNAM SUMMER,
Cambridge, Mass., April 23, 1967

In 1964, the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project mobilized thousands of students, clergymen and concerned citizens in the struggle against racial injustice.

The time has come for an even more massive effort to arouse the conscience of the nation—this time against the brutal and unjust war in Vietnam.

VIETNAM SUMMER is a call for 10,000 volunteers, including 2,000 full-time workers, to spend the summer in 500 communities organizing and educating against the War. During the next four weeks speakers and field organizers will visit campuses and cities around the country recruiting participantus for VIETNAM SUMMER. All peace, civil rights and civic groups and all concerned citizens are invited to join in this nationwide effort and to begin preparation in local communities for a VIETNAM SUMMER project.

VIETNAM SUMMER is a project to reach the millions of citizens in communities across the nation who oppose the war in Vietnam but whose voices have not yet been heard. The goal is to create a new, independent force in America which will undertake a broad range of concrete actions to end the war. In many communities, VIETNAM SUMMER will focus on establishing a powerful political base of anti-war sentiment capable of electing candidates in 1968 who call for an immediate peaceful settlement of the war. VIETNAM SUMMER will support and organize opposition to the war in ghetto areas of the nation and among young men of draft age who in ever greater numbers are refusing to fight.

VIETNAM SUMMER is an unprecedented attempt to bring together the hundreds of thousands who marched against the war on April 15, who voted against the war in 1964 and again in 1966, and the millions of Americans who want peace.

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
5 Beekman Street, New York 38, N. Y.

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OR WAR.

_____
signature

_____
address

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city *state*

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occupation *age*